

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

April 3, 2012

Assessing and Improving the Delivery of Realignment Services

Since October 1, 2011, the Governor's re-alignment program has resulted in the State of California's release of non-serious, non-violent, and non-sexual felons to the supervision of counties, including Los Angeles County (County).

The County developed a Realignment Implementation Plan (Plan), headed by the Los Angeles County Probation Department to provide Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) for the persons recently released from State prison. As part of the Plan, the County has allocated approximately \$18 million to provide realignment services to the Post Supervised Persons (PSPs). These funds were allocated evenly among the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Probation Department to provide services such as mental health care, substance abuse treatment, housing, and job placement.

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Over 5,000 PSPs have been released from State prison to the County through
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MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

April 3, 2012

PAGE 2

the end of February 2012. The Probation Department referred 60% of those persons to substance abuse or mental health treatment, but only 15% of the prisoners released have received such treatment.

The Probation Department also notes that as of March 9, 2012, the Probation Department has made only 157 referrals for housing, transportation or job readiness/placement services. This represents only 3 percent of the PSPs under County supervision.

By failing to ensure that persons released from State prison receive support in mental health, substance abuse, housing and job training, the County will repeat the State's abysmal recidivism rates of about 65 percent persons returning to State prisons within three years (according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation).

Both community based organizations and individual PSPs report current implementation of the re-alignment model is flawed because the Probation Department's intake "HUBs" are not equipped to refer them to many necessary services. Persons released from prison lack housing and transportation to services and service providers, and the potential service providers either lack basic information from the Probation Department, or are limited by the Probation Department's inability to promptly authorize agencies to receive PSPs.

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I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
April 3, 2012
PAGE 3

Direct the Chief Probation Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer to develop a plan to immediately improve the levels of rehabilitative services to released prisoners with a goal of ensuring 100% of persons requiring treatment and other services receive them. The plan should examine, but not be limited to, the following remedies:

- (1) Establishing clear performance goals to ensure Departments and/or Agencies make the appropriate referrals for mental health, substance abuse and job placement/housing services, including goals and timetables for ensuring that: (a) all PSPs who require services are referred for such services, and (b) all PSPs are monitored for attendance and progress towards their prescribed services.
- (2) Locating the referring County agencies and/or service providers, both County agencies and community-based organizations, at the Probation Department's "HUB" facilities.
- (3) Beginning the assessment and referral process prior to the prisoners' release, at the prison site, and possibly arranging for transportation directly to a service provider.

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- (4) Ensuring the broadest and most effective partnership and participation

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
April 3, 2012
PAGE 4

of Community Based Organizations and Faith Based Organizations,
through robust outreach and including performance goals in contract
terms.

The report is due back to the Board of Supervisors in writing within fourteen (14)
days.

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